

Most true but dreadful

A C C O U N T FROM SHOREDITCH,

Or a full and true
R E L A T I O N
How one John Thomson

A Hemp-dresser, and an Inhabitant of the Place before mentioned, being at work on Tuesday the 18th of this instant May in the Great Tempest was strook for dead, with the Thunder and Lightning, his Hat being pierced thorow, the Hair singed off his head and breast, his Flesh most miserably scorched.

With a Relation how two Youths who were on the other side of the same Street to the same House, were every time and scorched with the same Lightning.

As likewise many other Circumstances of its dread Effects, Attesteth under the hands

Of Good Witnesses, John Thomson, the party aggrieved,
Mr. Cratian Bale Chyrurgion.
Robert Laver who took him up.

And if any person is desirous to be farther satisfied, they may make an enquiry in the Parish aforesaid, and have the Testimony of several good sufficient Housekeepers who came to visit him in the time of his Extremity.

With an Account of a strange and prodigious storm of Hail, which happened in and about London, on Tuesday the 18th of this instant May, wherein there fell some Hailstones big as Pullets Eggs, and others five, six, seven and nine inches in Compafs.

Likewise a Relation of a terrible Tempest in Oxfordshire which burnt down a great large Barn which had several Bays in it full of Corn, and all consumed.

The Wise and Omnipotent God who made this Glorious Fabrick of the World, and separated all the jarring Elements from a confused heap of Chaos into the distant places that his Wisdome had assigned ; thereby to make a settled Peace and Concord in the Universe, commanded Fire, as being

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ACCOUNT FROM SHORE-DITCH, Or a full and true RELATION How one John Thomson

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With a Relation how two Youths who were on the other side of the Street to him, to the same time were burnt to very time and scorched with the same Lightening.

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Dore light and subtil than the rest to mount aloft, and place
self in the supremest Region: from whence since the Creati-
on, has loud-mouth'd Thunders and swift Lightnings strayed;
for hot exhalations by the Suns Attractive Rayes being drawn
rom Earth ascend; but proving too gross and humid to joyn
with that pure Element, they find a quick Repulse and so forced
headlong down to Earth again; but meeting oft with oppositions
in the Ayry Regions by reason of moist thick Clouds, the
plunging Fires with horrid noise roul in the waterry Fleeces of
the Skies, till at last breaking thorow, dart their swift Flames
from East to West, whil'st that Body of fire with irresistible
Force and impetuous Violence breaks and rends in pieccs solid
Oaks, Iron, Steel, or Rocks of Adament; wounds or kills what
e're alive it happens on. For the former of which we have an
ample President of its dread effects to make known unto the
Worl'd which happened in the last great Thunder-storm on Tues-
day the 18 of this instant May, the which was so terrible that
Natures self did seem to groan, as if the whole Elements were
huddleing themselves once more to Chaos, as all who were not
drowned in perpetual sloath may testify with fear and reverence
unto the great Creator of the Universle. The sad Relation of
which is as followeth.

On Tuesday the 18 of May in the morning, John Thom, by Trade a Hely-dresser, being
about that honest employment for the support and maintinance
of himself and Family in a workhouse not far from his dwelling
and hearing the bellowing Thunders rend the Clouds o're his
Head, began to be in some Consternation, in reflecting upon the
words of the Psalmist, where it is said, *The Lord thundred from Heaven, and the most highest uttered his voice*, &c. when loe the
winged Fire broke from a yielding Cloud, and with swift motion
entering at the window of the Shop, struck him to the Ground
with such a forte as if a Cannon had been discharged against him;
where he for sometime lay for dead, nor being able to relieve
himself by Speech or motion, till at last by the crying out of his
Son, a young Youth, whom he had placed be'ind the Dore, be-
ing fearful of the Lightning, his Wite with several Neighbours
came runing in, who finding him senceless, on the Floor, stood
amazed at the sad and dismal Accident, till by the Sulpherous
smell, and Brimstonelike fume, that scented all the place, began
to think the Truth of what had happened, and taking up the life-
less Corps (as they supposed) found the Lightning had caused
the sudden harm; but having raised him, he began by Degrees



to Breith, but long it was ere he recovered Sence, many of those that came to behold the woful sp̄ctacle, by reaon of the horible smell of Brimstone that the place contained would not come near him, but he being by some kin'd Samaritan conducted home, he was by an able Chyrurgeon after his being strip'd searched, who found as followeth, viz. That the Thunder fire had strucke directly on his Head, and enting through the Crown of his Hat, making therea great hole, and singeing his Hair, on the right side and passing thence did the like upou his Breast, running directly to his Navel: scorching his Head and leaving a long streak of parched flesh and skin from the Throat to the middle of his Belly, and the like on his right Hip about four Inchs long and three Inches broad.

When he fell he had a handful of Hemp, that he was Working upon in his Hand which he held fast, when his Wife and one Robert Latet, with several others came to his assistance : after much Rubbing and taking of several reviving Cordials, He came to himself, but yer so stupid that he knew not what had hap-pened to him, till he was informed by the People there present : but crying out lamentably that *He was on fire in his Bowels*, and that it would consume him, desiring that he might have something to allay the scorching heat his Inteals contained : for a considerable time he was deprived of the use of his Limbs, not being able to stir them : but after several applications proper in that Case by an experienced Chyrurgeon, they were brought to their former Motions and Of-fice: the Thunder smell or Sulphurous scent, was so strong upon all parts of his Cloaths and Body; as also the place where this Dread hap besel that in a whole day, it could not be extinguished : as likewise a certain unusual heat overspred him, as if a glowing fire within had flamed through every part : Many hundreds from the adjacent place have been to see him, and deplore his sad Con-dition: for sure it must be dreadful indeed, and greatly to be wondered thus to crush poor Mortals here. Now, no doubtle is to be all sensible that he is a God at hand, as well as a far off, and that the ends of the Earth are his and all that dwell in them, &c. In two days space the Internal heat left him, so that it is thought through the mercys of a never failing God, He may recover his for-mer Health, and live to render Praises and Thanksgiving, for his so Miraculous and Wonderful deliverance, and near escape from Death. Then how have we need to prepare our selves for our dissolution and entry upon a vast Eternity, for none are sure how many Moments they can count of Life, or how few Sands their fatal Glass has yet to run, various are the Pathes that lead to Death, beset with Snares on either hand, and when we think we tread the most secure, a sud-dain gust of Fate comes on, and wafts us to Eternity, and then all time for Prepa ration fails: therefore while it is to day, let all so Live as when Death comes, his Terrors may be turned into Smiles, and we may look upon his Ghastly Face with Joy, as the only guide to Usher us into eternal Blis.

But farther to our purpose, two young Lads being on the other side of the Work-house where this Lightening came, and just coming down a pair of Stairs, there being only a slight Partition between, the Lightening burst in, and threw them to the Ground, Burning one side of one of their Wigs, and through Providence passed away, without doing them any further harm. So that all may see the its admirable effects, and plainly discern the restraining Arm of the Almighty: Who can say to those raged Flames, as to the Raging Seas, this is your bounds, hithero shall you pass, and no farther.

Not long after this sad accident besel, and the prodigious gusts of Thunder and Lightening was overpast, but again dark Clouds from the South Western Skies arose, and driven before the Winds came on a pace with their fable Vels shrouding the Suns bright Face, when loe, an unexpected Storm of Hail descend-ed, with such impetuous violence, and with such magnitude as might amaze Mankind, the like not being seen in England before, so swift and sudden that many

many people were surprised by it, in the street and fields, and before they could get shelter, had not only their Heads brok. Faces cut, so pelted that they were oblieged to keep their Beds for a day or two after, many thousand Windows being broke and shatered by the Hail-stones, as likewise Tiles and Slates from Houses, almost in every Street, so that the damage sustained in and about this City of London is uncountable, and yet more dreadful in the Countries Westward, where it fell before it came to us, for in many fields the Corn lies cut in pieces as if mowed, young Plants and Trees broaken and destroyed, Birds and Beast lame and killed without number: and had not that God whose goodness never fails been pleased to put a Period to its fury and falling force, tis greatly thought it might have layed wast many Fields: So that the painful Husbandman in Vain might have expected the fruits of his Industry: But the Almighty in the midst of judgment remembred Mercy, and forgot not his ancient Loving kindnes to this Land: many of the Hail stones being measured were found to be no less then nine Inches iiii Compas and in sundry forms and shapes, some round, some long, others oval, representing various shapes and figures but how ever they were: no man now alive ever beheld the like before: Therefore may we admire the Handy-works of God, and with the Princely Prophet say, Thy Wonders are in the deep, and thy ways past finding out: this is the Lords doing, and it is marvellous in our Eyes, for sure it is we have great cause to humble our selves besor the eternal of God all the Earth, for his many mercys and peculiar favours he has vouchsafed to express the signal tokens of his Love to vs by in a-verting all the Threatning storms of fate, that hang lowering over our Heads, and turning them upon those, that sought with eagernesle our ruin and destru-
ction.

F I N I S.



